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In the Claims

In this Proposed Amendments, Claims 1, 8, 21, 24, 25, 29-33, 36, 38-42, 44, 45 and 47 have been amended. Claims 28 and 37 have been canceled. New Claim 48 has been added.

1. (currently amended) An implantable prosthesis, comprising:
a body structure having an outer surface for contacting a surface of a lumen;
a plurality of grooves disposed on said outer surface of said body structure of said
implantable prosthesis; and
a continuous string having a therapeutic substance, said string ~~traversing at least two~~
~~grooves~~ resting in a plurality of said grooves, wherein said string is capable of being wound
around said body structure.
2. (canceled).
3. (previously presented) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 1, wherein a depth of said
grooves is equal to about 10% to 90% of a thickness of said body structure.
4. (previously presented) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 1, wherein a depth of said
grooves is not greater than about 65% of a thickness of said body structure.
5. (canceled).
6. (canceled).
7. (canceled).
8. (currently amended) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 1, wherein said string is made
~~from~~ comprises a polymer material.
9. (previously presented) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 1, wherein said therapeutic
substance comprises a substance selected from the group consisting of antineoplastic, antiplatelet,
anticoagulant, fibrinolytic, antimitotic, thrombin inhibitor, antiinflammatory, and

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antiproliferative agents.

10. (original) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 1, wherein said therapeutic substance comprises a radioactive isotope.

11. (previously presented) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 1, further comprising a barrier disposed on said outer surface of said body structure and on said string to reduce the rate at which said therapeutic substance is released.

12-20. (canceled).

21. (currently amended) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 1, wherein said body structure iscomprises a radially expandable tubular structure.

22. (previously presented) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 1, wherein said body structure includes arm elements joined by connecting elements.

23. (previously presented) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 1, additionally including an adhesive material capable of bonding said string in said grooves.

24. (currently amended) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 1, wherein ~~thea~~ thickness of said string is generally equivalent to a width of said grooves so as to provide a tight fit between said string and said grooves.

25. (currently amended) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 1, wherein ~~thea~~ thickness of said string is generally equivalent to ~~thea~~ depth of said grooves such that said string does not protrude out from said grooves.

26. (canceled).

27. (previously presented) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 1, wherein said string is a monofilament.

Claim 28 (canceled).

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29. (currently amended) The implantable prosthesis of claim ~~28~~1, wherein said string is made at least in part from a polymeric material.

30. (currently amended) The implantable prosthesis of claim ~~28~~1, wherein said string iscomprises a filament.

31. (currently amended) The implantable prosthesis of claim ~~28~~1, wherein said string iscomprises an extruded filament.

32. (currently amended) The implantable prosthesis of claim ~~28~~1, further comprising: an adhesive material disposed on said body structure or on said ~~filament~~string or both.

33. (currently amended) An implantable prosthesis, comprising[[:]]:
a tubular body structure including support elements separated by gaps;
grooves disposed in said support elements; and
a string including a therapeutic substance, said string strong enough to be circumferentially wrapped exclusively around the outer perimeter of said body structure of said implantable prosthesis, said string being disposed in said grooves of at least some of said support elements such that said grooves act as guides for allowing said string to be circumferentially supported by said body structure, and wherein said string extends across said gaps between said support elements when circumferentially supported by said body structure.

34. (previously presented) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 33, wherein a depth of said grooves is equal to about 10% to 90% of a thickness of said support elements.

35. (previously presented) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 33, wherein a depth of said grooves is not greater than about 65% of a thickness of said support elements.

36. (currently amended) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 33, wherein said string ~~is made from~~comprises a polymer material.

37. (canceled).

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38. (currently amended) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 3733, wherein said therapeutic substance comprises a substance selected from the group consisting of antineoplastic, antiplatelet, anticoagulant, fibrinolytic, antimitotic, thrombin inhibitor, antiinflammatory, and antiproliferative agents.
39. (currently amended) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 3733, wherein said therapeutic substance comprises a radioactive isotope.
40. (currently amended) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 3733, further comprising a barrier disposed on an outer surface of said body structure and on said string to reduce the rate at which said therapeutic substance is released.
41. (currently amended) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 33, wherein said body structure iscomprises a radially expandable tubular structure.
42. (currently amended) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 33, wherein said support elements arecomprise arm elements joined by connecting elements.
43. (previously presented) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 33, additionally including an adhesive material capable of bonding said string in said grooves.
44. (currently amended) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 33, wherein ~~thea~~ thickness of said string is generally equivalent to a width of said grooves so as to provide a tight fit between said string and said grooves.
45. (currently amended) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 33, wherein ~~thea~~ thickness of said string is generally equivalent to ~~thea~~ depth of said grooves such that said string does not protrude out from said grooves.
46. (previously presented) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 33, wherein said string is a monofilament.
47. (currently amended) An implantable prosthesis, comprising[[:]]:

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a body structure including support elements separated by gaps;
grooves disposed in said support elements; and
a continuous string including a therapeutic substance, said string disposed in said grooves
of at least some of said support elements such that said grooves act as guides for allowing said
string to be supported by said body structure of said implantable prosthesis, wherein said string
extends across said gaps between said support elements when supported by said body structure.

Please insert the following New Claim:

48. (new) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 47, wherein said implantable prosthesis is a
stent.